

specific areas viz. Crop Husbandry, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Agricultural Research & Education, Natural Resources Management, Institutional Finance and cooperatives, Marketing, Agricultural Extension, Decentralized Planning and Disadvantaged Groups. Eminent experts, the State Government Senior Officers, the NGOs and other stakeholders are represented on the Steering Committee and Working Groups with a view to suggesting policy initiatives required to achieve high growth rate in agriculture towards an inclusive growth agenda for the country.

Recommendations of the Steering Committee and the Working Groups would facilitate further policy steps and other initiatives for the Twelfth Five-Year Plan.

#### **Minister's visit to Myanmar**

\*332. SHRI LALHMING LIANA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Minister had visited Myanmar recently and during his visit whether it has been agreed to open a number of border trade centres on Indo-Myanmar border to boost bilateral economic relations;
- (b) if so, the details of the border trade centres to be opened in Mizoram and Manipur;
- (c) whether Behiang village on Indo-Myanmar border in Churachandpur district of Manipur has been considered at one of the border trade centres; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by when it would be considered?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. At the invitation of the Foreign Minister of Myanmar, I paid an official visit to Myanmar on June 20-22, 2011. The visit provided opportunity for an engagement with the newly elected leadership of Myanmar on the entire gamut of bilateral relations. Discussions included measures to enhance trade and economic cooperation between India and Myanmar.

I understand that the proposal for setting up border trade centres/ border haats along the India-Myanmar border, including at Behiang village in Churachandpur district of Manipur, is expected to be discussed during the forthcoming meeting of the Joint Trade Committee between India and Myanmar, scheduled to be held shortly.

#### **Road construction by cutting trees**

\*333. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry proposed to construct roads by cutting trees in the naxal affected areas for better security;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Ministry of Environment and Forests had objected to this;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) final decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) and (d) Development of existing roads totaling to 5477 km length has been taken up in Left Wing Extremism affected 34 Districts of 8 States. The development is generally planned within existing right of way involving bare minimum cutting of trees with the permission of State Forest Departments.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Decline in SAIL profit**

\*334. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that state-run steel maker Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) reported a 28 per cent decline in its net profit at Rs. 1,507.12 crore for the quarter ended March, 2011;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of production and profit earned by SAIL for the last three years including the current year; and

(d) Government's target of reported disinvestment of SAIL in the fiscal year 2011-12?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The profit after tax (PAT) of the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) for the quarter ended March 2011 was Rs. 1530.61 crore which was lower by 27% as compared to corresponding period last year (CPLY)'s PAT of Rs.2084.90 crore. However, SAIL's profit of Rs 1530.61 crore for the quarter ended March 2011 was higher by 38% as compared to profit of Rs. 1,107.47 crore in the previous quarter ending December, 2010.